

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

As a preliminary matter, Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for conducting a short interview with Applicant's representative on May 19, 2010. During that interview, the Examiner agreed that the amendment to claim 1 presented in this paper would be acceptable in a Rule 312 amendment. In particular, Applicant has amended claim 1 to correct an issue regarding antecedent basis. As a similar amendment was previously made to independent claim 17, the Examiner agreed that the amendment would be acceptable in a Rule 312 amendment.

Claims 1-6 have been allowed pursuant to the Notice of Allowance of February 19, 2010. By this amendment, Applicant has amended claim 1 solely to correct antecedent basis in that claim. No new matter is presented. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the application, as amended, is in allowable form. Applicant therefore respectfully requests entry of this amendment prior to issuance.

This Amendment is timely as it is being filed concurrently with the issue fee due in response to the Notice of Allowance. If there are any questions, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact Applicant's counsel at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
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